VOLUME VII, NUMBER 9 April 1991

THE MUNI MEMO

OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL RAILWAY

Muni's First Black Driver

In February, at the monthly Civic Luncheon honoring Muni's award winners, Muni also saluted two old friends — the Railway's first black operator Audley Cole and the instructor who trained him, Wesley Mason.

Photo: Carmen Magana

Former Muni General Superintendent of Transportation Wes Mason and Audley Cole, the Railway's first black operator, whom Mason personally trained.

Audley Cole was a motorman for Muni between 1941 and 1943, working for Muni when operators and supervisors alike told him, "This a white man's job." Cole endured insults and rejection, but in the long run paved the way for other blacks to become Muni operators.

After passing the Civil Service exam and being called for service, it was three months before Cole learned how to operate a streetcar, during which time 14 motormen were

Continued on pg. 8

New Artic Diesels Make Their Appearance

Say Hello to Muni's new fleet of articulated diesel buses. The "artics," originally scheduled to be delivered by the end of 1990, have arrived. The new fleet of 24 vehicles should be in service sometime in April after operator training takes place.

The buses were manufactured by New Flyer Industries of Winnipeg, Canada, at a cost of about $282,000 apiece. They will be used primarily on the 15 Third Street line and as a back-up on lines that already use articulated diesels, such as the 9X, 38 and 38L.

The new buses come with the improved design features that Muni has required in its other new vehicles such as double width doors and a large number of single side seats. They are also painted with a graffiti resistant type of paint. The bus's exhaust pipe is vented out of the roof rather than out of the side or back so that when the windows are open, passengers will not be subjected to exhaust fumes.

The delivery of the motor coaches completes the Railway's diesel replacement plan. Once the 31 Balboa is converted to trolley coach operation – scheduled for January 1992 – Muni's oldest 1969 General Motors and 1975 American General buses will all be removed from daily service. Forty of the GMCs will be retained in a ready reserve fleet for emergencies.

Over the past eight years, Muni has replaced its old GM and AMG diesels with M.A.N. articulated buses, New Flyer 40-foot standard buses, Orion 30-foot buses, and the most recent New Flyer articulated diesels.

An artist's rendering of Muni's new diesel artic.

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Management Message

Muni Joins Water Saving Efforts

Despite the fact that San Francisco was drenched for a couple of weekends with some long overdue storms, the drought facing the Bay Area and Northern California is far from over. We must all continue to be diligent, whether at home or at work, to continue to conserve water.

As part of Muni's contribution to San Francisco water saving efforts, we stopped washing our buses as of March 15. City regulations require that our bus washers use recycled water, but unfortunately our washers are not recycling water properly so we will have to live with dirty buses for a while, rather than waste water. A limited amount of spot cleaning using buckets and brushes will continue both inside and outside of the vehicles. This in no way affects our graffiti clean-up program, which continues uninterrupted.

We are looking at a number of alternatives including the possibility of retrofitting or modifying our bus washers with recycling devices or using tank trucks from the Department of Public Works for bus washing, but no final decisions have been made.

In the meantime, the fact that we have stopped washing our buses for water saving purposes sends a clear message that the Railway is committed to water conservation. Please also remember in your daily water consumption at Muni to turn off the faucets while washing your hands, not to use toilets as ash trays and keep all water use to the absolute minimum. Every drop counts.

Johnny Stein
General Manager

Employee Notice

Softball Benefit Scheduled
The workers of the Department of Social Services are having their Second Annual Softball Tournament to benefit the Workers Children's Fund. The Children's Fund was established to help meet the otherwise unmet needs of abused, neglected and exploited children beyond the basic needs of food, shelter and clothing provided by public funds. Music or art lessons, a prom dress or expenses for a trip can make a tremendous difference in a young person's life. Last year's tournament brought together 12 city departments who went to bat for children by each contributing $300 to compete, raising over $3500 for the fund. The tournament will be held May 4th and 5th. It would be great if all those Muni softball players out there would organize a Railway team to compete against other city departments and raise money for the fund. For tournament information, call Dwayne Kinner at 557-5136 or Lawrence Pierson at 557-6053.

Job File

7316 Water Service Inspector, Water Department, $3575 - 4342 monthly. Apply immediately. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis at 1155 Market Street. For info, call 554-1600.**9209 Airport Police Service Aide,** SF Airport, $25,584-$30,966 annually. File immediately. Receipt of applications may close at any time. For info, call Airport Personnel at 876-2187.
2585 Health Worker I,

Department of Public Health, $20,800-$25,116 annually. File immediately. Receipt of applications may close at any time. Nine positions vacant. For info, call Department of Public Health at 821-8084. **1440 Medical Transcriber Typist**, Department of Public Health, $28,288-$31,122. File immediately. For info, call 821-8084.

CONGRATS!

The Division Operators of the Month for February were:

Cable Car:	Leroy Lites
Flynn:	Robert Jones
Green:	William Tanner
Kirkland:	Michael Barrett
Potrero:	Alfred Sanchez
Presidio:	Custodia Brazil
Woods:	Lloyd Harris

The Division Operators of the Month for March were:

Cable Car:	Allen Kumpula
Flynn:	Manuel Caceres
Green:	Thomas Primus
Kirkland:	Abraham Pagdilao
Potrero:	Johnny Szeto
Presidio:	Calvin Pollard
Woods:	Walter Thompson

Credits

The Muni Memo is published by the Community Affairs Department of Muni. Contributions and comments may be addressed to the Muni Memo, Room 238, 949 Presidio Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94115, telephone 923-6162.

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Unsung Hero

Raymond Peppars

Automotive Service Worker, Woods Division

BACKGROUND: Raymond Peppars is one of the true Muni old-timers. He came to work for Muni in late 1944 at 24th and Utah. He was born in Merriam, Kansas, the fourth of 17 children. His mother was the oldest in a family of 21 kids and ironically his father was an only child. After high school, he ran away from home and came to the Bay Area. His father was a Fiji islander whose Golden Rules were Respect God, Respect your Mother and Father and Respect all Elders. After a dispute with his father, Raymond felt that he couldn't stay at home anymore because he'd broken two of those rules so he went West. He says he ended up in the hobo jungles in Oakland and then went south to pick fruit. Soon after he heard that Muni was hiring. Because he had had experience working on and driving heavy machinery for his father who owned a truck company and because he was a member of the Teamsters, he was hired immediately. Over the years, he says he's seen 17 or 18 species of diesel buses and he thinks the old Macs and the old Whites were by far the best. He worked at the old Ocean Division, but when Woods opened, he was transferred and has been there ever since. His classification back then was a J66 Garageman and he was hired at $1.10 an hour. Raymond recalls that he personally watched Richard Olson build Muni's motorized cable car, the one we still have today, using the chassis of an old ACF bus with a Hall Scott pancake engine.

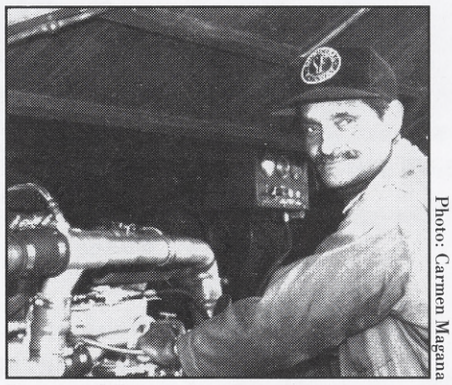


Photo: Carmen Magana

Raymond Peppars.

WHY I LIKE WHAT I DO: I take pride in my work and I'm proud to be part of this great company. I think the Railway should still have a dress code. When I was out on the street fixing buses, I always made it a point to have clean coveralls and my shoes shined so I could put my best foot forward to John Q Public. I've never been late or AWOL and I'm going to work as along as I can. When God fixes it so I can't work anymore, I'll slip out the back door, but I feel as healthy as the alligator when the pond ran dry right now.

FAMILY: Raymond has been married to his wife Lois Marie for 42 years. Lois Marie was the fourth in a family of 13 kids. She works during football and baseball season at Candlestick Park as a cook and cashier in the food stands. Raymond and Lois have five children — two daughters and two sons and an adopted daughter — ten grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

OUTSIDE INTERESTS: I have an old '28 Buick and a '66 Chevy Caprice four-door sports sedan. I never let the rain touch those cars. The Chevy is in mint condition and will be the last car I ever own. Whenever I drive it, people always ask me how much I want for it, but I'll never sell it.

Awards

February Systemwide Operator of the Month

Name:	Al Jefferson, Jr..
Division:	Potrero
Years with Muni:	25
Background:	
Birthplace:	Mississippi
Education:	George Washington High
Previous Employment:	Worked in the garage for Barrett Transportation
Marital Status:	Divorced
Children:	Four adult children — three sons and one daughter.
Hobbies and Interests:	Tinkering with his 1960 Mercury.
Words of Wisdom:	"Aim high and continue on."

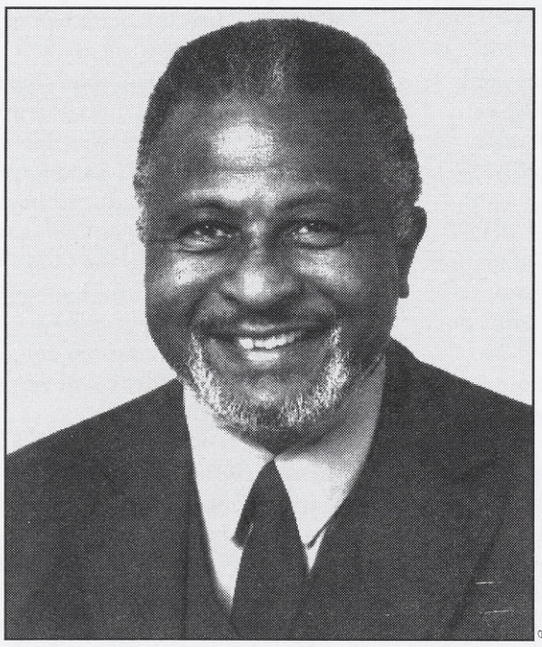


Photo: Kurt Wong

February Systemwide Operator of the Month Al Jefferson.

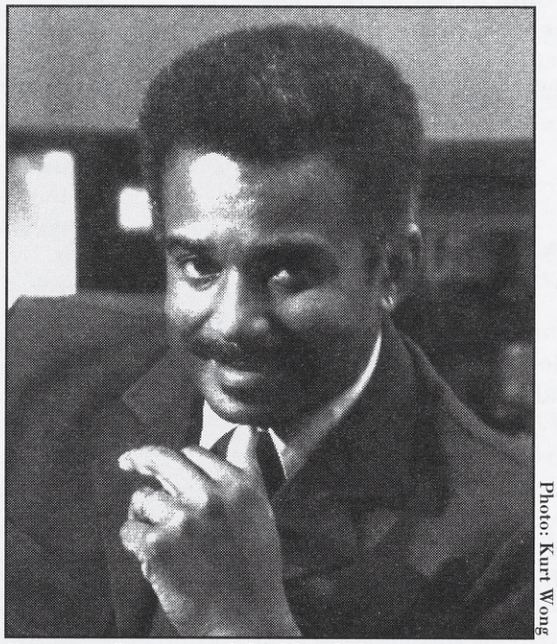


Photo: Kurt Wong

February Operator of the Month Runner-up Randall Wiley.

February Systemwide Operator of the Month Runner-up

Name:	Randall E. Wiley
Division:	Potrero
Years with Muni:	17
Background:	
Birthplace:	Oakland, California
Education:	Skyline College
Previous Employment:	Printer
Marital Status:	Married. His wife's name is Carolyn.
Children:	Son, Atiim, 15, and daughter, Tiombe 11.
Hobbies and Interests:	Jogging, car repair, and all kinds of music.
Words of Wisdom:	"Be true to your own convictions and follow your judgment."

Awards

February Maintenance Worker of the Month

Name:	Patrio Mangoa
Position:	Custodian
Division:	Ways and Structures
Years with Muni:	Two
Background:	
Birthplace:	Philippines
Education:	Power plant engineering at the University of the East in Manila
Previous Employment:	Assistant House Parent, SF Unified School District; Custodian, City Hall
Marital Status:	Married. His wife's name is Teresita.
Children:	Four sons and a daughter
Hobbies and Interests:	Jogging and volunteering at St. Francis of Assisi.
Words of Wisdom:	"Serve. Be a good worker."

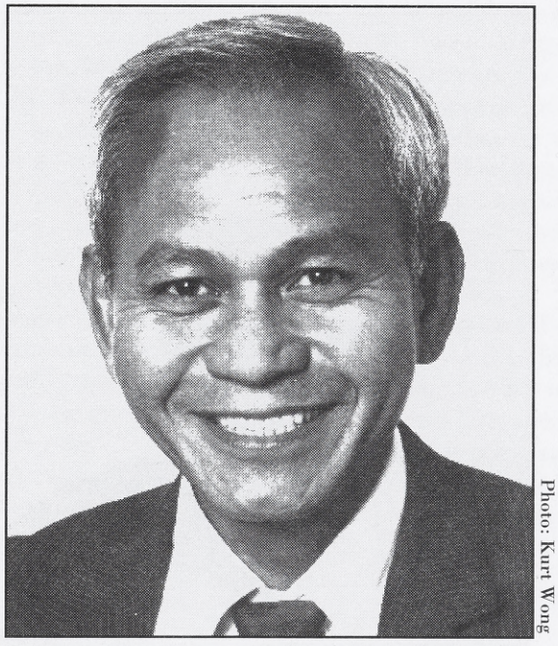


Photo: Kurt Wong

February Maintenance Worker of the Month Patrio Mingoa.

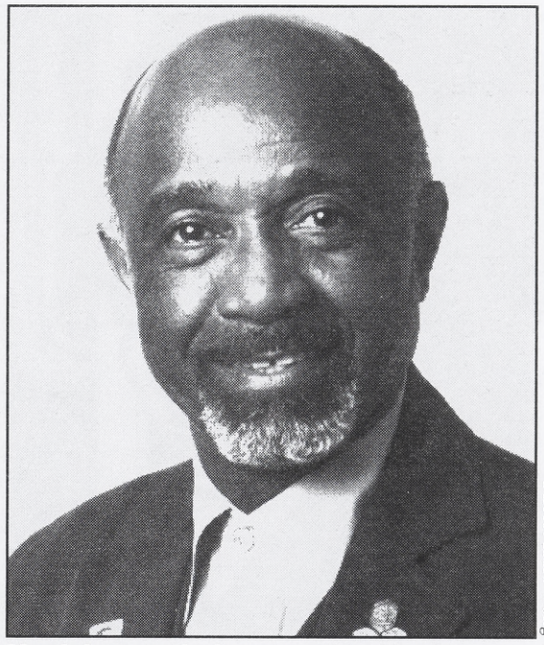


Photo: Kurt Wong

March Systemwide Operator of the Month Melvin Harris.

March Systemwide Operator of the Month

Name:	Melvin Harris
Division:	Flynn
Years with Muni:	27
Background:	
Birthplace:	Oklahoma City
Education:	A.A. Social Psychology, City College of SF
Previous Employment:	U.S.. Postal Service
Marital Status:	Married. His wife's name is Ethel.
Children:	Michael, 19
Hobbies and Interests:	Fishing and being a handyman around the house.
Words of Wisdom:	"Do the best you can and be satisfied having done so."

More Awards

Photo: Kurt Wong

March Operator of the Month Runner-up Aretta Carthen.

March Systemwide Operator of the Month Runner-up

Name:	Aretta Carthen
Division:	Flynn
Years with Muni:	Three
Background:	
Birthplace:	San Francisco
Education:	High School graduate
Previous Employment:	Bank of America, Golden Gate Transit
Marital Status:	Divorced
Children:	Candace Jones, 10, and LeEarnest Jones, 8.
Hobbies and Interests:	Bowling for the Muni
Words of Wisdom:	"A smile can mend a broken heart. So keep smiling."

March Maintenance Worker of the Month

Name:	Nestor Daquigan
Division:	Green Running Repair
Position:	Electrical Transit Service Worker
Years with Muni:	Five
Background:	
Birthplace:	Philippines
Education:	Electronics, City College of SF
Previous Employment:	Building maintenance at California Pediatric Hospital
Marital Status:	Nestor has been married to Wilma, who is a claims analyst at Del Monte, since 1978.
Children:	Deryk, 9, and Darrell, 2
Hobbies and Interests:	Taking care of his sons and being a handyman around the house.
Words of Wisdom:	"I try to learn everything of something and something of everything."

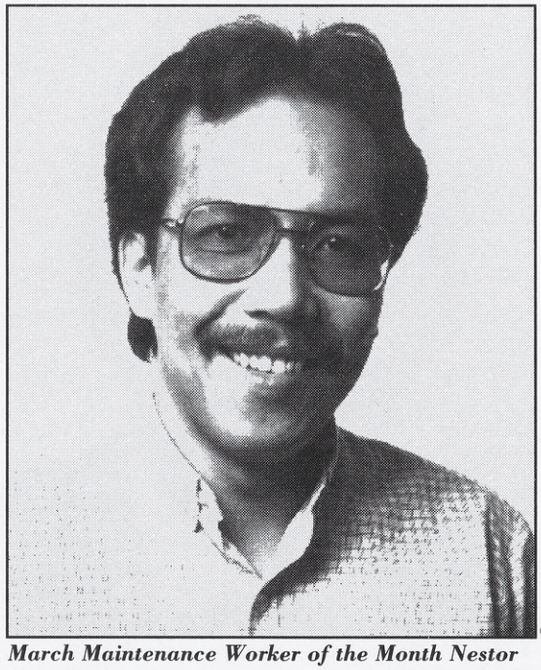


Photo: Kurt Wong

March Maintenance Worker of the Month Nestor Daquigan.

Opinion Corner

Dear Muni Memo,

I am an electronic maintenance technician in the Muni Metro Signal and Electronics Department and a regular reader of the *Muni Memo* newsletter. I have a suggestion that I would like to present to Muni management and other readers of the newsletter. I would like to see a "Mass Transit Technology Innovation Program" implemented in the Muni Railway in which any Muni employee could submit his or her ideas for improving the design or operation of Muni mass transit vehicles or related systems. Because Muni has a rather large collection of technicians and mechanics employed in various aspects of maintenance of the Railway, I think that are many individuals who have ideas for improving the Muni vehicles of facilities and they could benefit by having a means for communicating their thoughts to the Muni Management. The ideas could be published in the *Muni Memo* and some type of award presented to the employee along with a commendation letter for their personnel record. The potential ideas could be improvements to diesel or trolley buses, cable cars , LRVs or other related systems. The improvements might be mechanical, electrical or electronic or a new or innovative method of arranging maintenance facilities. I have several ideas for inventions pertaining to mass transit vehicles that I would like to have reviewed by Muni engineers or managers so I hope that my Technology Innovation Program will be implemented in the very near future!

Respectfully,
Galen L. Dutch

News

H. Welton Flynn Reappointed to PUC

In February, Mayor Art Agnos reappointed San Francisco accountant H. Welton Flynn to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. Flynn has the dual distinction of being the first black appointed to a SF city commission and of having served on a city commission longer than any other person. He was first appointed in 1970.

During his tenure, Flynn has served under four mayors and has been elected President of the PUC by his fellow commissioners on six different occasions. His major accomplishments have been in the area of affirmative action for women and minorities in city employment and in enabling more women-owned and minority-owned firms to obtain city contracts through the PUC.

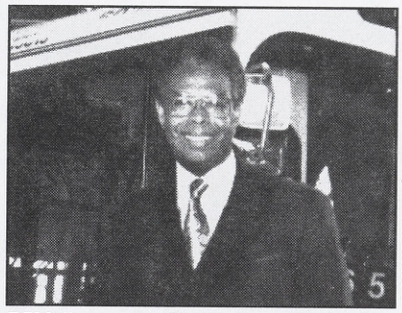


Photo: Joshua Rotsten

PUC President H. Welton Flynn.

Riders Speak

Dear Mr. Stein,

Union Square Business and Professional Women would like to commend the Muni bus drivers for their display of concern and professionalism during the recent (anti-war) demonstrations. Many of our members who were on buses...were soothed by the calm and caring manner of the drivers.

With all the criticism of Muni, we felt that you should know that in that time of crisis and uncertainty, Muni and its drivers displayed the type of composure badly needed by some of the demonstrations.

Sincerely,

Karen Montgomery
President
Union Square Business and
Professional Women

Dear Sirs:

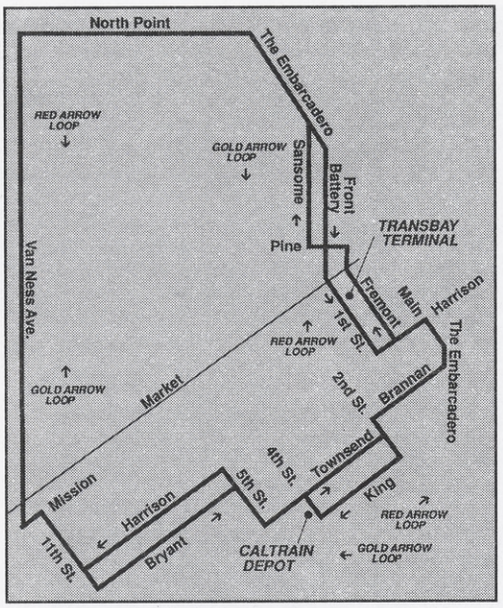
Recently we spent a few days in your lovely city. We used the Muni buses whenever possible and want to compliment you on the helpful, friendly and courteous drivers whom you employ. Without fail, each one whom we encountered took the time to direct us to the correct bus and to inform us when our stop was coming up in a friendly and courteous manner. Please thank your drivers for making this a memorable trip for us.

Sincerely,

Joe and Isabelle Ravary

42 Line Rerouted

The 42 Downtown Loop has been rerouted between the CalTrain Depot at Fourth and Townsend and the Transbay Terminal at First and Mission to provide better service to the South Beach area. South Beach is located between Bryant and Brannan, east of Second Street.

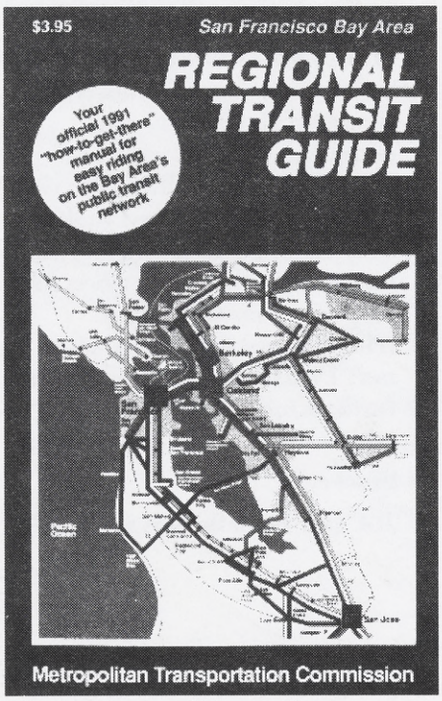


New 42 Downtown Loop.

In the "Red Arrow Loop" direction, which travels toward the Financial District, the 42 now runs on Townsend, Second Street, Brannan, the Embarcadero, Main, Harrison and Fremont and then continues on its regular route. In the "Gold Arrow Loop" direction, which travels toward Van Ness Avenue, the 42 now runs on First Street, Harrison, Main, The Embarcadero, Brannan, and Second Street and then continues on its regular route to the CalTrain Depot.

New Regional Transit Guide is Out

The 1991 *Regional Transit Guide*, published by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, is now available. The *Guide*, now in its fourth edition, is an invaluable resource for public transit passengers.


$3.95
San Francisco Bay Area
REGIONAL TRANSIT GUIDE
Your official 1991 "how-to-get-there" manual for easy riding on the Bay Area's public transit network
Metropolitan Transportation Commission

The new Regional Transit Guide.

It includes updated information on all the Bay Area's transit operators with easy to understand maps and text that describe routes, fares, transfer points and hours of service.

The *Guide* features the Bay Area's major carriers including Muni, AC Transit, BART, Caltrain, Central Contra Costa County Connection, Golden Gate Transit, SamTrans and Santa Clara County as well as 100 smaller agencies in nearby counties.

Get your guide today. It retails for $3.95 at Bay Area bookstores and can also be obtained from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland.

Get Well Fast, Andres

The *Muni Memo* sends its best wishes to Andres Colon, Manager of Muni Reproduction who underwent major surgery at Kaiser Hospital in March and is convalescing at home until May 6th.

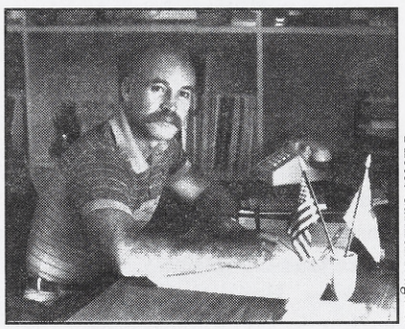


Photo: Carmen Magana

Andres Colon.

We're happy to report that the surgery was a success and that Andres, who was originally supposed to spend a minimum of ten days in the hospital, was doing so well that they sent him home early after only one week.

We're thinking of you, Andres. What a way to get your much needed vacation!

Muni's First *Cont. from pg. 1*

suspended for refusing to train him.

Finally, Chief Instructor Wesley Mason, who went on to become Superintendent of Transportation, stood up for Cole and set an example for the entire Railway by personally training him.

Hats off to Audley Cole and Wesley Mason for having the courage to change the face of Muni half a century ago. Although Cole only worked for Muni for two years, he effectively started a Civil Rights movement in San Francisco that preceded the one started by Rosa Parks when she refused to move to the "blacks only" rear of a bus in Alabama in 1955.

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